

L. H. J.
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the Supply Bill which they a few Days afterwards offered to the Upper House, it was expressly provided and directed, that the Troops then in the Pay of the Province should be forthwith reduced to 300 Men, and the Service of those 300 (not a Part of them only) was restrained, as the printed Bill will evince, in such a Manner as to compel them to abandon the Post where his Lordship had stationed some of them, and in such a Manner as to deprive all the King's Officers of any Command over them. The Gentlemen of the Upper House having returned this Bill with a Negative, those who had framed it, desired me to transmit a Copy thereof to his Lordship, together with an Address, in order that he might be the better able to judge of their Proceedings, and Zeal to promote his Majesty's Service. On the Receipt of this Bill and Address, his Lordship wrote the Letter, which is quoted in your Address as an Evidence of his having conceived a good Opinion of the Zeal of that Lower House of Assembly to promote the Service of his Royal Master: How far the Letter will support what you suggest, let the Unprejudiced determine: I shall only repeat it:

New-York, December 30, 1757.

“Sir,

I had this Day the Favour of your Letter by Express, with the Bill prepared by the Lower House, and the Address from both Houses to you. As I had seen an Extract of the military Part of that Bill before, I am ready to give my Sentiments on it; and am clearly of Opinion, that had it passed into a Law of the Province, it would have been a direct Infringement of the King's undoubted Prerogative, and as such was very wisely rejected by the Upper House; at the same Time, I am willing to believe, that the Assembly had not considered it in that Light, or they would never have framed it in that Manner; nor had they considered that Right of the King of commanding his Subjects in Arms, which is a Right undisputed every where, or they would never have disputed the Power of his Commission, to have marched the Troops, raised by them for the Defence of his Domisions, even out of your Province, which I do not understand I have done with Regard to them, which was to Fort Cumberland, from the best Accounts I have been able to procure; but that does not come to be the Question; for if they will consider what has happened in almost all the other Provinces, they will find, they are single in the Opinion of the King's Power of Marching the Provincial Troops into other Provinces. At the Meeting at Philadelphia it was settled last Spring, that South-Carolina was in Danger of a more powerful Invasion from the Enemy than they were able alone to resist, therefore it was agreed, that it was necessary they should have an additional Force sent to their Assistance, composed partly of Regular Troops, and partly of Troops raised by the other Provinces, and 200 Men did accordingly sail from Virginia, and are